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Statement submitted by African-British Returnees International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

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Statement

There is a need to draw lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals to address the multiple interlinked global challenges of eradicating poverty, ensuring environmental sustainability, achieving economic equity, ensuring gender equality, tackling climate change, managing equitable distribution of natural resources, realizing human rights and reducing inequality within populations.

There should be a single set of international development goals putting poverty eradication as the overarching focus of sustainable development. The principles of participation, accountability, equality and non-discrimination must cut across any post-2015 framework.

The means to achieve sustainable development visions include:

(a) Awareness-raising, education, changing behaviours and perceptions from the Member States.

(b) Capacity development at all levels for integrated, inclusive, coherent planning within and across sectors and groups that address trade-offs.

(c) Creating sustainable development economic incentives through fiscal reform, regulations and standards.

(d) Finance, leveraging limited public resources strategically and catalysing larger pools of private finance from the private sectors through the United Nations Global Compact signatories.

(e) There is a need to map and review other relevant initiatives and sustainable development goals conceptual frameworks on a stipulated periodic time frame using e.g. Independent Research Forums and the United Nations Technical Support Team to the Open Working Group for the Sustainable Development Goals.

An analytical framework for sustainable development goals should entail:

(a) Reflect priority sustainable development areas and be limited in number.

(b) Capture inter-linkages/clusters of goals and multiplier effects.

(c) Be action oriented, concise and easy to communicate.

(d) Be universal and applicable across country contexts.

(e) Be accompanied by targets and indicators that consider different national capacities and levels of development.

Any successor to the Millennium Development Goals should have sustainable development at its heart. It should build on lessons learnt from the Millennium Development Goals as well as take into account shortcomings, specifically their failure to address structural causes of poverty, inequality and exclusion, and shortcomings especially in Millennium Development Goal 7 to address environmental sustainability. It should incorporate the aims of the existing initiatives which seek progress in all areas related to sustainable development, bringing together disparate frameworks, and create an enabling environment for greater progress within it.

Fundamentally, any global development framework must be based on, and fully ensure, equal enjoyment of all human rights for all people.